

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED

The present location of West Branch Ford (formerly Radford Motors), adjacent to the Historic Site, was considered for the centralized maintenance facility. The NPS rejected this alternative because suitable locations within the Historic Site existed for the facility. In addition, the West Branch Ford site had the potential for hazardous material from underground fuel storage tanks.

The NPS considered the Varney house, the P.T. Smith house, the lobby of the HHPL, and the Isaac Miles Farm barn as an existing facility to provide orientation to the Historic Site. It found, however, that each building lacked sufficient space for orientation and visitor services (information desk, orientation exhibits, and a theater). The Varney and P.T. Smith houses also lacked space for public rest rooms. Only the barn had the potential to provide orientation in an appropriate location at the start of most visits to the Historic Site. The barn, however, stands so close to Interstate 80 that many visitors would return to the highway after their visit to the barn without experiencing the Historic Site. The barn also lacked the size necessary to accommodate orientation and visitor services.

The NPS considered rerouting Parkside Drive to the east in order to provide safe access to the Historic Site for pedestrians coming from the Water Street parking lot. Subsequent installation of a pedestrian crosswalk with a traffic light has substantially improved the safety of pedestrians. The expense of rerouting Parkside Drive, therefore, would not merit the small increase in safety provided by that action.

The NPS considered moving the Water Street parking lot to the north end of the village green to provide a natural background for the view of the Birthplace Cottage from the Gravesite. It rejected the action for its negative impact on recreational opportunities on the village green. The new location of the parking lot would place users farther away from the historic structures in the Historic Site and would add to the present traffic congestion at the corner of Parkside Drive and Main Street.